

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 07911 021613Z

41

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5207

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 7911

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: APER PDIP (KENNETH W. EUBANKS, FSR-2)

SUBJ: SECOND INCIDENT INVOLVING USAID AGRICULTURAL ECONOMIST

REF: (A) ADDIS 07282; (B) STATE 146308; (C) ADDIS 7483;

(D) ADDIS 7659; (E) TOAID A-49

FOLLOWING IS ACCOUNT OF SECOND INCIDENT IN WHICH SUBJECT
EMPLOYEE BECAME INVOLVED WITH ETHIOPIAN POLICE. FIRST
INCIDENT DESCRIBED REF A.

1. ABOUT 1415 HOURS THURSDAY, 26 JUNE, MISSION DIRECTOR AND
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR RECEIVED TELEPHONE CALL FROM PETER SEBASTIAN,
EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER, ADVISING THAT SUBJECT EMPLOYEE WAS
AT THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL WHERE HE WAS
BEING DETAINED BY THE ETHIOPIAN POLICE. APPARENTLY MR. EUBANKS
HAD IN HIS POSSESSION AN AMHARIC MANUSCRIPT, THE STENCILS
AND MIMEOGRAPHED COPIES OF WHICH HE HAD JUST MIMEOGRAPHED
ON THE SCHOOL'S MACHINE FOR AN ETHIOPIAN FRIEND, ATO MULEGETA
BEZEBEH, FORMER PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY
OF NATIONAL RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT. THE ETHIOPIAN POLICE HAD
BECOME AWARE OF THIS TRANSACTION AND WERE DEMANDING THAT
THE MANUSCRIPT BE TURNED OVER TO THEM. EUBANKS, INVOKING
DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY, WAS REFUSING TO ACCEDE TO THEIR DEMANDS ON
THE GROUNDS THAT THE MANUSCRIPT AND STENCILS WERE IN A MISSION
VEHICLE WITH CD LICENSE PLATES, WHICH THE POLICE THEREFORE
COULD NOT LEGALLY ENTER.

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2. MISSION DIRECTOR AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR DISCUSSED THE

MATTER WITH THE AMBASSADOR AND POLITICAL OFFICER, AND IT WAS DECIDED THAT SINCE THE MANUSCRIPT WAS A PRIVATE DOCUMENT WHICH EUBANKS HAD BEEN REPRODUCING IN A PURELY PRIVATE CAPACITY, IT WAS OF NO INTEREST TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AND THEREFORE EUBANKS SHOULD BE INSTRUCTED TO GIVE IT TO THE ETHIOPIAN POLICE AUTHORITIES. THE DIRECTOR AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR IMMEDIATELY WENT TO THE SCHOOL AND HAD MR. EUBANKS TURN THE MANUSCRIPT OVER TO THE POLICE,

3. IN A SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSION WITH THE AMBASSADOR AND MISSION PERSONNEL, EUBANKS GAVE HIS VERSION OF THE INCIDENT SUBSTANTIALLY AS FOLLOWS:

ON THE BASIS OF A LONG AND CLOSE WORKING AND PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH ATO MULEGETA, AND FOR WHAT HE CONSIDERED TO BE IDEALISTIC AND HUMANITARIAN REASONS, EUBANKS HAD AGREED TO REPRODUCE ABOUT 60 COPIES OF THE MANUSCRIPT FOR MULEGETA. THE MANUSCRIPT, HE SAID, WAS A BRIEF TO BE USED BY MULEGETA IN HIS OWN DEFENSE AGAINST ANTICIPATED CHARGES WHICH HAD LED TO HIS DISMISSAL FROM HIS POST ABOUT TWO WEEKS PREVIOUSLY. PRESUMABLY THE ETHIOPIAN POLICE HAD BECOME AWARE OF THE FACT THAT EUBANKS AND HIS THREE SONS WERE REPRODUCING THE DOCUMENT ON THE MIMEOGRAPH MACHINE AT ACS. (HE WAS NOT CERTAIN AS TO WHETHER THE POLICE HAD TRAILED MULEGETA TO THE SCHOOL OR IF THE POLICE HAD BEEN ALERTED BY AN ETHIOPIAN EMPLOYEE AT THE SCHOOL). UPON BEING ACCOSTED BY THE POLICE, EUBANKS HAD REFUSED TO GIVE UP THE DOCUMENTS, CITING HIS DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY AS REASON WHY THE DOCUMENTS COULD NOT BE REMOVED FROM THE MISSION'S CD VEHICLE IN WHICH THEY HAD BEEN PLACED. POLICE ON THEIR PART WOULD NOT ALLOW EUBANKS TO LEAVE SCHOOL BUILDING. EUBANKS THEN PHONED RICHARD KLINGENMAIER, EMBASSY SECURITY OFFICER, AND ADVISED HIM OF SITUATION, FOLLOWING WHICH SEQUENCE OF EVENTS DESCRIBED IN PARAS. 1 AND 2 ABOVE TRANSPIRED.

4. AMBASSADOR SUGGESTED THAT IN VIEW OF THIS INCIDENT AND THE PRECEDENT ONE IN WHICH EUBANKS HAD BEEN INVOLVED A FEW DAYS BEFORE, DESCRIBED IN REF A, IT WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE DIFFICULT FOR EUBANKS ANY LONGER TO CARRY OUT HIS OFFICIAL DUTIES HERE. HE RECOMMENDED THEREFORE THAT EUBANKS AND HIS FAMILY SHOULD LEAVE ETHIOPIA WITHIN 48 HOURS ON ORDERS TO RETURN TO

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WASHINGTON. EUBANKS FULLY AGREED WITH THIS RECOMMENDATION.

5. EUBANKS AND FAMILY (WIFE AND THREE SONS) DEPARTED POST JUNE 28 AND WILL ARRIVE WASHINGTON JULY 21. (SEE REFS D AND E). HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 02 JUL 1975
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Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
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